

Resurrection Sunday

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Today is Resurrection Sunday. At this time of the year (on the Christian Calendar) we celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' death, burial & resurrection.

- On the Jewish Calendar this time of the year is called "Passover"
- (In the world it is called "Easter").

For the last 2000 years the gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached around the world, proclaiming the Good News of His sacrificial death and of His glorious resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:3–7 (NLT) *I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. **Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.***

Apostle Paul shared this central truth of the gospel with the Corinthian believers.

The Central Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- **Christ died for our sins**
 - **He was buried**
 - **He was raised from the dead on the third day**
- The Corinthian church was built on this central truth of the Christian faith
- Every genuine church around the world has this truth as its foundation
- Every individual believer around the world has this truth as the basis of their Christian faith

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV) ... *on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

One day Jesus asked His disciples: Who do men say that I am?
They answered: Some say you are John the Baptist, or Elijah or Jeremiah.
Then Jesus said: But who do you say that I am?

Matthew 16:16–17 (NLT) *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah (the Christ), the Son of the living God.”*

We call this “Peter’s Great Confession”, because he acknowledged Jesus as the promised Messiah whom God would send to deliver & redeem His people.

- Messiah (O.T.) – the Anointed One
- Christ (N.T.) – the Anointed One

The Rock of Revelation Knowledge

Peter’s confession was based on a revelation that he had received from God.

Matthew 16:17 (NLT) *Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.*

- A revelation is not something that we learn from another person, like for example, information
- A revelation is a God-given understanding when He illuminates the eyes of our heart and lets us see things that we had not seen before

Matthew 16:18 (ANT) *And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros—a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, **petra—a huge rock like Gibraltar**] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].*

- Some say that Jesus build the church on Peter
 - But the church isn’t built on a man – Peter wasn’t the “petra’ that Jesus spoke about in Matt. 16:18
- Others say that Jesus built the church on Himself
 - Although Christ is called the “Rock” (1 Cor 10:4), in Matt. 16:18, Jesus wasn’t speaking about Himself
- In Matt. 16:18, Jesus spoke about the rock (petra) of revelation knowledge

The church is built on the rock of revelation knowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Once you have the rock-like revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and receive Him as your personal Lord and Saviour, you become as solid & immovable in your faith as the rock of Gibraltar.

- This revelation of Christ as the Son of God “unites us” as believers
 - This revelation of Christ as the Son of God “separates us” from the world
- The church is the “ecclesia”, the company of “called out ones”
- We have been “called out” of the world to “represent Christ” to the world

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV) *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

- Every born again believer belongs to this:
 - chosen generation
 - royal priesthood
 - holy nation
 - God’s own special people

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead

Matthew 28:1–8 (NLT) *Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. 5 Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 **He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.** Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.” 8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message.*

Where is Jesus Christ today?

- Jesus Christ is no longer on the cross

- Jesus Christ is no longer in the tomb
- Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven

Acts 2:33 (LB) *And now he (Jesus) sits on the throne of highest honor in heaven, next to God. And just as promised, the Father gave him the authority to send the Holy Spirit—with the results you are seeing and hearing today.*

God commands all people everywhere to repent of their sins

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV) *Truly, these times of ignorance **God** overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because **He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.** He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”*

The only way to escape judgement is to get saved through Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:13 (NLT) *... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Salvation Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I thank You that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ into the world to save me. I recognise that I have broken Your commandments, and that I cannot save myself by my own good deeds. Lord Jesus, I thank You that You have taken the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. I believe you rose from the dead, and I make a decision now to surrender my whole life to You and everything that I have. I receive You as my personal Lord and Saviour. I thank You that I am now forgiven, and that I am born again. Please lead me and guide me and show me Your plan for my life. Help me to be strong so that I can live according to Your purpose and Your rules for my life. In Jesus’ Name, amen. “